

Historic Garnet Cabin Undergoing Stabilization

Maria Craig, Missoula Field Office

As the result of an agreement between Glacier National Park and the Missoula Field Office, a miner's cabin is being stabilized in Garnet Ghost Town. The cabin, built in the late 1890s, had been deteriorating from the bottom up - several logs were completely gone while portions of other logs were rotting. In addition, the roots of a large spruce tree were growing under the cabin and pushing it up on one side.

After examining the cabin, Jack Polzin of Glacier National Park proposed the actions needed to stabilize the cabin and Maria Craig, Missoula FO Archaeologist, wrote the stabilization plan. Prior to the stabilization, archaeological data recovery needed to be done. Thanks to Amanda James, Steve Flood, Ernie McKenzie, Keith Karageorge, Larry Busby, Kristin Bowen, Dennis Leonard, Allan Mathews, Dwight



This miner's cabin was on the verge of collapse before a historic preservation crew from Glacier Park started their stabilization work. *Photo by Maria Craig.*



The cabin is elevated using "cribs" (wood blocks) and jacks so that crew members can replace deteriorated logs. Due to weather, the crew was unable to daub the cabin, so one of the crew members will return next summer to finish that chore. *Photo by Maria Craig.*

A crew from The History Channel filmed the stabilization work on October 24 for use in a program on gold rush towns entitled "Save Our History" scheduled to air in June 2005. *Photo by Marilyn Krause.*



Gappert, Barb Whiteman, Steve Singleton, Luke Stevens (all employees from the Missoula Field Office) and volunteer Gwen Busby and two volunteers from the University of Montana, Terri Wolfram, Missoula FO term archaeologist, and Maria were able to conduct an excavation around part of the cabin to retrieve artifacts that would have been disturbed by the stabilization.

At the beginning of the month, the four-member crew under the direction of Jack Polzin came to Garnet and began stabilizing the cabin. The stabilization actions consisted of removing the large spruce tree adjacent to cabin, securing whalers (bracing boards) on the walls, hand excavating and placing crib supports under the cabin to hold the structure in place for log repairs. Many deteriorated logs or portions of logs needed to be removed and replaced. Original, historic

materials will be connected to replacement materials with "Dutchman" splices. To further stabilize the cabin, flat stones will be placed over concrete piers (sonatubes) at the corners of the building under sill and spandrel logs, and below and adjacent to exterior door and window side jambs.

A Time for Reflection and Looking Ahead

As the old saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun." I think it's safe to say that time also flies when you're busy. Actually, at my age, time pretty much flies regardless of the circumstances, and the sand that was 2004 flowed through the hour glass at a remarkable clip. Looking back over the past year, we were, indeed, busy (and productive), and I hope we all had some fun while we furthered BLM's mission here in Montana and the Dakotas.

After the long and trying 2003 fire season, we began the year by expanding on some lessons learned with a community workshop in Garfield County. The workshop was designed to explain the working relationships among federal, state and local firefighting agencies to improve understanding and coordination in the future. Marty discussed the same topics in a number of talks around the state. We were also able to provide materials to replace some 45 miles of fencing lost in the 2003 Missouri Breaks Complex fires.

Our fire prevention work on the Horsethief project near Roundup received special recognition in the form of an Interior Department award. The award was for streamlining the environmental assessment process that laid the groundwork for the project, but the real payoff comes from the on-the-ground work that is reducing hazardous fuels in the 10,000-acre Horsethief subdivision.

Western Montana saw some important public land additions. The final phase of the Ward Ranch exchange was completed in February bringing an important 2,200 acres along the shores of Hauser Lake into public ownership. And almost in the same breath, the Butte Field Office announced that the details for acquiring the nearby 5,600-acre McMaster ranch had been worked out. These two exchange acquisitions add some important recreation opportunities, critical wildlife and fish habitat, and important historical sites in an area that would have been prime for subdivision and development. Near Dillon, we also picked up about 80 acres that dovetail with previous acquisitions at the popular Pipe Organ Ranch along the Beaverhead River.

Land use planning continues to occupy center stage in many of our offices, and it's a job that gets more complex every year as our constituencies broaden and resource considerations expand. Yet those working on our plans seem undaunted as they consistently turn out top-notch environmental documents. Late in the year, Lewistown added some oil and gas issues to its Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument RMP while the Dillon RMP continued on track. Work on the Butte RMP got underway, and we learned that the Blackleaf EIS would give way to an accelerated revision of the West HiLine RMP. Meanwhile, our North Dakota

Field Office was working on the Coteau EIS that addresses expansion of a coal mine in an area that is punctuated with cultural sites.

On the Pryor Mountain National Wild


Horse Range, besides its intended resource benefits, our fertility control work produced numerous positive media stories in one of BLM's most controversial programs. It also provided significant hope of new progress in dealing with the wild horse program across the bureau.

The Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration began moving westward this year involving more staff and more time. The first major play for us began in Bismarck at the end of October, and BLM's presence there was really a hit. Sure, we had a wonderful physical display, but our people are again proving to be the difference between good and great. We also broke ground this year for a new interpretive center at Pompeys Pillar. Work is also underway for a center in Fort Benton.

Any retrospective look at our work here in Montana and the Dakotas will also show that our work with partners is more important each year, from scout troops building trails to organizations like the Montana Conservation Corps or the Conservation Fund. We have local governments as cooperators in some of our land use planning efforts, citizen groups assisting at recreation sites, and volunteers working in offices. All of this "shared" effort not only helps us from a standpoint of staffing and funding, but it also builds shared ownership and understanding in our decisions and our care of the public lands.

What a great group of people, people who are dedicated, hardworking, and productive. As we look forward to the challenges of a new year, Marty and I want to pause and thank you each for a great 2004 and extend our warmest wishes for the holiday season. We are looking forward to again being part of the BLM team in Montana and the Dakotas in 2005.




A. Jerry Meredith
Associate State Director

Fish Barrier Protects Cutthroat Trout on Dyce Creek

*Text & photos by Paul Hutchinson,
Dillon Field Office*

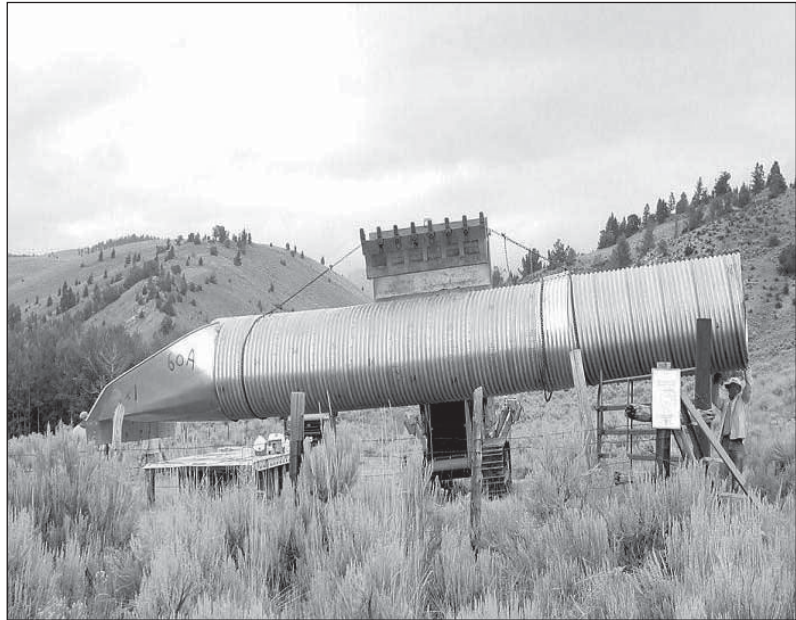
In mid-August a crew from the Dillon Field Office installed a “perched culvert” fish barrier on Dyce Creek, a tributary of Grasshopper Creek, about 30 miles west of Dillon.

The barrier will prevent further upstream colonization by non-native brook trout into Dyce Creek, a genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout stream. The barrier was installed on private land owned by the J. Dwight Harrison Ranch through a cooperative agreement between the BLM and the Harrison Ranch.

Before the barrier was installed, the stream channel was cleared so that fishery crews could electro-shock the stream and remove the non-native trout. A work crew from the Dillon FO used chain saws to remove willows, fallen timber and other vegetation from over four miles of the stream channel, but they left large wood and debris jams to maintain habitat.

On August 17, fishery crews from the Dillon BLM, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks began a three-year brook trout removal project to enhance and restore a genetically pure native westslope cutthroat trout population.

During the four day effort, they removed nearly 1,700 brook trout from approximately six miles of Dyce Creek upstream of the fish barrier. They measured all the brook trout and released most of them downstream of the barrier. Brook trout not released were used



It's a plane, it's a culvert. . . no, it's a fish barrier! Moving the assembled barrier down to the stream proved to be a challenge but BLM employees Jamie Galbraith (far left), Jim Maloney (blue shirt), Ronnie Hayes (equipment operator) and Mark Olson (far right) were successful.



After installation, the “perched culvert” will allow water to flow through, but prevent brook trout from moving upstream.

for disease testing or, if release was not feasible due to distance and terrain, were destroyed and buried on site.

Subsequent removal efforts by Dillon BLM fisheries personnel since August, using electro-fishing gear and fish traps, have removed another 850 brook trout from Dyce Creek, bringing the total to over 2,500 for the first year. The goal is to eradicate brook trout upstream of the fish barrier. Once brook trout

removal is complete, this population may be used as a donor source for future westslope cutthroat re-introduction efforts in the Dillon FO area.

Members of the barrier construction crew were Jim Maloney, Ronnie Hayes, Mark Olson, Gary “Buck” Decker, Jamie Galbraith, and Paul Hutchinson. Decker, Galbraith, and Hutchinson, along with Clint Layng, cleared the stream channel.



Emma Rens, seasonal employee, works a fish trap on a Dyce Creek Pond.

“They Like It!”

Sheep Chow Down on Knapweed along the Madison

David Early, Dillon Field Office

Six hundred and ninety knapweed-loving sheep grazed infested areas on federal and state land in the Wall Creek Game Range south of Ennis this summer. From May 15 until July 15 the yearlings were herded along 14 miles of both sides of the Madison River.

The privately owned sheep band was kept within a few hundred yards of the river in areas of high knapweed concentration. The animals were penned at night to protect them from possible predation and the bedding paddocks were re-seeded with native species to reduce the impact the sheep had on the vegetation.

In August, BLM range techs from Dillon counted seed heads on 100 pre-selected individual plants in each of two test plots. One plot was grazed and the other wasn't. On average, plants in the grazed plot had 11 seedheads, vs. 46 seedheads on plants in the un-grazed site. Seedheads were reduced 77 percent by the hungry critters!

Pat Fosse, BLM Supervisory Range Specialist in Dillon, is pleased and encouraged by the early results of the three year project, “One of our pre-project objectives was to reduce seed production by 75 percent

over the course of the project. It looks like we made a pretty good guess,” Fosse laughed.

Fosse also said that after the third grazing season additional monitoring will measure frequency and cover of cool season grasses in the plots, relative density of knapweed in grazed vs. un-grazed plots, and determine the effect that reseeding grazed plots has on knapweed density.

Fred King, the Wall Creek Game Range Manager, was impressed with the way “Tony” the Peruvian herder managed the band. “He is always out there

with the sheep.” King was especially happy with the performance of the sheep on the west side of the river in the Game Range. “They didn't overgraze and he moved them through there quickly so as not to damage the grasses in any way.”

The project is a joint effort among the BLM, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Madison

County, Montana Sheep Institute, and the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, a private non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining open spaces and biodiversity in the Madison Valley.



Sheep graze along the Madison River to help control knapweed. The project was considered a success and the partners plan to continue it next year. *BLM photo*

History on Film

*Story and photo by Dick Kodeski,
Billings Field Office*

Re-enactors of Captain Clark's journey down the Yellowstone River in 1806 were recently captured on film at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. The video footage and still photographs of Northern Lights Production and Eric Schmidt Photography will be used in exhibits at the new interpretive center now being constructed at the Pillar. The new center is expected to open to the public next summer.



Service with a Smile

Volunteer Donates more than 12,000 Hours at James Kipp Recreation Area

Sandra Padilla and Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office

The BLM recently presented Illa Willmore with the President's Call to Service Award for her extraordinary work as a volunteer host at the James Kipp Recreation Area.

Illa has volunteered over 12,000 hours to support the BLM's efforts toward making the recreation area a safe, enjoyable experience for countless visitors over the last 11 years.

Illa and her husband, Warren, live about 11 miles south of the James Kipp Recreation Area. She has accumulated a lifetime of knowledge about the Missouri River, the Breaks and the James Kipp site. Visitors seem drawn to the opportunity to visit with Illa to hear stories about the people, events, trials and rewards common in this country. She also finds a means of offering a little information about BLM and public resources during her discussions with visitors.

Illa began her volunteer work as a campground host at James Kipp in April 1993, and has spent numerous hours (like Lewis and Clark) journaling in a BLM log. Her journals provide humorous stories about the people she has met as a campground host, the assistance she has offered those in need, and numerous encounters with Mother Nature (the extremes in between hot/cold, wet/dry and ice/water). She

has offered hot coffee and warm conversation to countless visitors who left their vehicles stuck in the gumbo (common in the Breaks) and walked to the highway. She has opened her home to those stranded for extended periods.

She also reports the local weather for the community of Roy; writes a regular article for the Lewistown News Argus about activities in the area; and serves as a superintendent for the Fergus County Fair in Lewistown.

Illa is a Grand Ambassador for the

area, her family, her community and the BLM. Her smile is her trademark.

In 1997, Illa traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive the Making a Difference Award.

The President's Call to Service Award is in recognition of her volunteer service and her values which contribute to a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility in America. She received this award during the recent National Public Lands Day activities at the James Kipp Recreation Area.



Illa Willmore received the President's Call to Service Award this fall in recognition of her volunteer service at James Kipp Recreation Area. Photo by Sandra Padilla



They proceeded on . . .

Winter 1804-05

December 17

Clark notes a temperature of 45 degrees below zero – "colder," John Ordway adds, "than I ever knew it to be in the States." A week later, on Christmas Eve, Fort Mandan was considered complete and the expedition had moved in for the winter.

January

The Mandans perform their sacred "buffalo calling" ceremony and a few days later, a herd shows up. The Indians and explorers hunt buffalo together. Several expedition members get frostbite, as does an Indian boy whose toes Lewis has to amputate, without anesthesia or a surgical saw.

February 11

Sacagawea gives birth to a baby boy, Jean Baptiste. Lewis assists in speeding the delivery by giving her a potion made by crushing the rings of a rattlesnake's rattle into powder.



(source: www.PBS.org)

MCFO WRAPS UP 2004 PALEO SEASON

Story and photos by Mark E. Jacobsen, Miles City Field Office

EASTERN MONTANA – The 2004 season was productive for paleontology work in the Miles City Field Office as field crews and institutions made their way to eastern Montana's world famous fossil deposits. BLM staff kept busy with both local and national groups interested in preserving Montana's vast prehistoric resources.

Some of the BLM's involvement in local projects included the "Dinosaur Trail," a planned auto-route intended to highlight eastern Montana dinosaur related museums and sites and proposed by the Museum Association of Montana. BLM archaeologists also met with the Carter County Museum Board to discuss improvements to the museum's proposed expansion and registration requirements for federal repository status for paleontological remains.



Ken Olson (wide-brimmed hat) and Scott McKendrice (baseball cap) from the Museum of the Rockies, work with a local landowner at a triceratops dig north of Baker this summer.

The BLM conducted aerial monitoring flights throughout the summer over Carter, McCone and Garfield counties to check on paleontological activities while BLM field tours visited triceratops excavations in Garfield and Fallon counties.

The spirit of paleontology was also reflected in the BLM's display in August at the Eastern Montana Fair in Miles City. Meanwhile, discoveries in the field were plentiful.

"This year was the year of the triceratops," said Doug Melton, BLM archaeologist in Miles City. It seemed like everybody had one."

Melton indicated that the permit numbers were on the upswing and came from a wider variety of institutions.

"We're seeing greater involvement with the public which we haven't seen in the past," said Melton. "We're also seeing stronger educational programs."

This year's paleontology permittees included an assortment of both internationally and nationally noted institutions, working on a variety of specimens.

The University of California-Berkeley and the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh spent the season examining micro invertebrate sites in Garfield County. Meanwhile, the St. Louis Science Center offered a teacher training session and finished excavating a triceratops they started in 2002 and removed a portion of another they found in 2003.

The University of Wisconsin at Madison did several excavations and survey work in Carter County. Fossil specimens included some *Tyrannosaurus rex* material, a hadrosaur and a triceratops.

The Burpee Museum of Natural History from Rockford, Ill., excavators of the famous "Jane" *Nanotyrannus* specimen-- were in the area again as well. This year, Burpee staff exhumed a partial triceratops and a hadrosaur. The staff also performed surveys and other collections in Powder River, Carter and Custer Counties.

According to John Girone, visitor services manager for the Burpee Museum, the 2004 season was also the last year for the "Highway to Hell Creek" program-- an event jointly funded by the museum, interested sponsors and paying excavator participants.

"This program really formed a great partnership between the Carter County Museum and the (Burpee) museum," commented Girone. Girone indicated that although cancelled for 2005, the Highway to Hell Creek program may be implemented again in the future.

(continued on next page)



Exposed triceratops skull at a dig north of Baker.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County was also in the field office area and successfully recovered portions of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* that had been worked on in 2003 and a triceratops skull. Sheridan College (Wyoming) was also present in southern Carter and Powder River Counties and will likely submit their annual report to the BLM in December.

Museum of the Rockies paleontologists were active as well. Ralph Nichols and the “Upward Bound” program from University of Montana – Western from Dillon collected a partially exposed and “at risk” hadrosaur jaw and humerus from BLM lands in McCone County.

Museum of the Rockies affiliate Ken Olson was in charge of excavations for a triceratops skull in Fallon County and a partial triceratops skull in Garfield County. Museum affiliate Homer Hendrick and his crew conducted a paleontological survey in Garfield County, locating a small *Tyrannosaurus rex* specimen.

All said, 2004 was a busy one for dinosaur work and field crews are planning for another productive season in 2005. The BLM’s Doug Melton forecasted an increase in surveying activity next year with the possibly of additional emphasis on early mammals. In the meantime, the unique discoveries from ancient Montana are being cleaned up, cataloged, studied and added to the vast catalog of earth’s ancient life.

“We’ll see some interesting and unique critters as a result of this year’s work,” said Melton.



Tools of the trade.



This summer Miles City employees took advantage of a rare opportunity to visit a dinosaur dig with their kids and help with the excavation. Here they strike a pose around a triceratops skull north of Baker, along with an adjacent landowner and Museum of the Rockies staff. A commercial excavator had partially uncovered the skull before discovering he was on federal ground. The Miles City FO was notified and the skull was excavated under BLM supervision by Museum of the Rockies personnel and later transported to the museum facilities in Bozeman for cleaning and preservation.

Our Recreation Attractions . . . Check 'em out!!



Holter Lake with the "Sleeping Giant" in the background.

Chain-of-Lakes Complex

Location

The 115-mile long series of lakes stretches from Three Forks to Wolf Creek, Montana, with its midpoint about 15 miles east of Helena.

Description

The Chain-of-Lakes Complex is a series of four manmade lakes along the Missouri River, interspersed with segments of free-flowing water. From south to north, the four lakes in the "chain" are Toston, Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter. Toston is the smallest at five miles long, and Canyon Ferry is the largest at 24 miles long. Each lake hosts BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, and/or private recreation areas, campgrounds, and other facilities, such as marinas.

The lake complex is a popular fishing, sightseeing and boating area, with spectacular mountain settings along portions of the corridor. The Chain-of-Lakes

Complex provides boat access to excellent hiking, fishing, camping and hunting opportunities. The area also includes the Sleeping Giant Wilderness Study Area, about 11,000 acres of steep, irregular topography with elevations ranging from 3,600-6,800 feet.

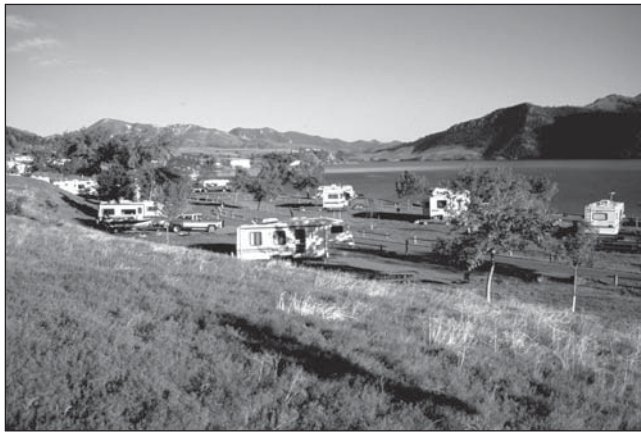
Directions

Toston Lake: From Three Forks, drive 3 miles west on Interstate 90. Take exit 274 to U.S. Highway 287, and drive north about 21 miles. Turn east onto Toston Road (improved gravel) and go six miles to Toston Dam. The road dead-ends at BLM's Upper Toston Recreation Site, just above the dam.

Canyon Ferry: From Helena, travel east on Highway 287 about 10 miles. Turn north onto Route 284 and go 8 miles to Canyon Ferry Dam.

Hauser Lake: From Helena, take Exit 193 (Cedar Street) off Interstate 15. Turn right onto Washington Street and go past the airport entrance to Custer Avenue. Turn right, and travel for 1.5 miles to York Road. Turn north onto York, and travel 10 miles to Lakeside, a private resort. Travel 2 more miles to Devil's Elbow, where BLM manages two recreation areas.

Holter Lake: From Helena, drive north on Interstate 15 about 35 miles and take exit 226 at Wolf Creek. Travel east from Wolf Creek to the east side of the Missouri River bridge, and then turn right onto a paved country road. BLM recreation sites in the area include Holter Dam, Holter Lake, Log Gulch, and Departure Point.



Camping at Holter Lake Campground

Visitor Activities

Picnicking, fishing, boating, hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, and ice fishing (during the winter).

Special Features

The “Gates of the Mountains” create an optical illusion that occurs while one travels upriver on Holter Lake: these cliffs, on opposite sides of a narrow section of the lake, appear to swing open, revealing mountain peaks behind them. In 1805, Lewis and Clark named this phenomenon during their historic expedition; the entire Chain-of-Lakes corridor is now part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Today the Gates’ base is flooded by the waters of Holter Lake, and visitors glide in aboard tour boats along the explorers’ route.

Mountain goats, elk, antelope, ospreys, bald eagles, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and other native wildlife can often be seen in this area. Fish species include



Girls playing at Clark's Bay Day Use Area on Hauser Lake

kokanee salmon, brown and rainbow trout, walleyes, perch and smallmouth bass. The Sleeping Giant, a feature along the Beartooth Mountain ridgeline that resembles the profile of a reclining giant, is a well-known area landmark that is readily visible from Helena and Interstate 15.

Permits, Fees, Limitations

Day-use fees are in effect at all sites. Fishing and hunting licenses can be obtained at numerous stores throughout the lake corridor.

Accessibility

Restrooms and developed campgrounds are accessible.

Camping and Lodging

Camping is available at all BLM sites, with a 7 or 14-day limit depending on location and per-night fees. Group camping is offered at some locations; please contact BLM for more details. The Bureau of Reclamation manages six recreation campgrounds at Canyon Ferry Lake. Developed overnight camping for RVs and tents is available at several campgrounds within the complex. There are also about 50 undeveloped, boat-in camping sites at Holter Lake and other points in the corridor. Camping is on a first-come, first-served basis. Checkout time is 3 p.m. RV dump stations are available in Helena, Cascade (25 miles north of Wolf Creek along Interstate 15), and Townsend (at the southern tip of Canyon Ferry Lake, about 30 miles south on U.S. Highway 287).

Food and Supplies

Food, supplies and commercial services are available in the towns of Wolf Creek, Townsend, Three Forks, Craig, Helena, East Helena (along Interstate 15 which



Clark's Bay Day Use Area

runs parallel to the Chain-of-Lakes); Townsend (on Highway 287 at the south end of Canyon Ferry Lake); and Three Forks (on Interstate 90).

First Aid

The nearest hospital is in Helena. Wolf Creek and other communities within the corridor have volunteer fire departments, search and rescue teams, and paramedics.

Additional Information

The Gates of the Mountains boat tour, which operates on Upper Holter Lake, is a favorite local attraction. There are also swimming beaches, fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, and docks at Holter Lake (at Holter Lake and Log Gulch recreation sites) and Hauser Lake (Devil's Elbow site).

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Canyon Ferry Reservoir

Highlighting the West HiLine

Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office

Public land use planning has been compared to riding in a car on a really long road trip over the same circular route. Occasionally planning team members look out the window and ask, "Haven't we been here before?"

The reason for this repetition is that most land use plans have a 12-15 year life expectancy. Then, because of changing issues, additional public expectations, new laws, policies, and data, it's time to gather your strength and prepare a new land use plan for the same area.

The West HiLine Resource Management Plan (RMP) is no exception. In 1988, then-Montana State Director Marvin LeNoue signed the final West HiLine RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It became the senior land use plan for roughly 626,000 BLM surface acres and 1,328,000 federal subsurface acres spread across the six northernmost counties in northcentral Montana (Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine and Chouteau).

In its prime, the West HiLine worked well and provided sound management guidance for resolving a variety of public resource issues. However, in recent years the document began to show its age before an onslaught of changing circumstances.

The significant amount of oil and gas leasing, exploration and development throughout this part of Montana is one of the driving reasons for launching a new planning effort for these public lands. There are now over 800 oil and gas leases scattered across these BLM-managed lands/subsurface acres, which create a pressing need for new inventories and revised data. The BLM needs this information prior to designing lease stipulations and resolving split estate issues.

Some of the BLM lands



Lynn Ricci is the team lead for the West HiLine Resource Management Plan.

analyzed in the original West HiLine are now part of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and are being considered in a separate land use plan.

Also, in recent years, sage grouse, prairie dogs, raptors and swift fox have assumed greater roles in BLM land use planning than they did in 1988.

The West HiLine was scheduled for revision in 2008. However, the BLM recognized the need to address these increasingly difficult circumstances and opted to accelerate the schedule.

Another reason to launch the new West HiLine planning effort now is the availability of Lynn Ricci (Lewistown Field Office zone planning & environmental coordinator) to serve as the team lead. Lynn had been serving as the lead for the Blackleaf Project EIS, but in early October BLM tabled further work on the Blackleaf Project, in part to focus the necessary energy and funding on revising the West HiLine.

Lynn was raised in Arizona and received a BS in biology from Northern Arizona University in 1986. In 1985, she worked as a seasonal firefighter for the Forest Service. Then in 1987, she started her career with the BLM as a firefighter and range technician in Ely, Nevada. In 1990, she took a BLM

compliance and reclamation specialist job with the solid minerals program in Battle Mountain, Nevada. While there, Lynn trained for and worked as a planning and environmental coordinator.

Lynn and her husband, Nick, moved to Lewistown in 2002.

It normally takes 2 ½ - 3 years to compete a new RMP.

"This year we'll write a preparation plan that will help identify an interdisciplinary team, create a public involvement plan, identify preliminary issues, reveal data and inventory needs, settle on a document format, prepare a budget for the effort and establish a work plan to follow. The preparation plan will also help determine what needs should be addressed by an environmental consultant," Lynn said.

In fiscal year '06 the BLM will print a Notice of Intent, then move into scoping, enlisting cooperating agencies and the detailed work that is the heart of the NEPA task ahead.

Some of the staffers in Havre and Lewistown were around when the 1988 West HiLine was completed and a few of them may find themselves on the planning team for the new effort. Don't be too surprised if during one of the many team meetings to come, one of them asks, "Haven't we been here before?"

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Event Deemed Huge Success

Mary Apple, MSO

Most of you have been there. Sitting in a booth at the county fair or a trade show, either trying to sell something to make money for your organization or, if you work for a government agency, with an array of colorful brochures and Smokey Bear pencils on the table before you. Passersby gaze at you pityingly, glad that it's you sitting there and not them. A few of the more sympathetic ones stop and browse or perhaps even buy a potholder or some popcorn. They might pick up a map, put it in their pocket, and then surreptitiously throw it in the trash on the way out. Will this day never end?

Well folks, it doesn't always work that way. Witness the BLM's exhibit at the recent Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event at Bismarck, North Dakota. At a post-event staff meeting, BLM Lewis and Clark Bicentennial coordinator Dick Fichtler uttered a phrase not too many BLMers had heard before—"We're lucky there weren't more people." On the peak day, at least 2,400 students and adults visited the BLM's exhibit in a six-hour period. And they had fun. In the performance tent, Rob Nurre, aka "the surly surveyor," made what could be a rather dull subject quite entertaining. Mike Crosby told the story of what he thought was the most important day of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Can you guess which day Mike chose? Sandra Padilla talked about the natural history of the Upper Missouri River.



Deputy Director Fran Cherry helps students file for their homesteads.

Over in the exhibit tent, students were caught up in the BLM's new interactive display, "A Legacy of Land Stewardship." They could do rubbings of a reproduction of William Clark's Pompeys Pillar signature, grind corn (it was harder than it looked), get a land patent for their own homestead, or do a little more surveying. (BLM is, after all, the nation's official surveyor.) There were animal pelts and skulls, grizzly paws, and, the most popular of all—bandanas for everyone! At the fire exhibit, the "Our Changing Landscape" display described how the western landscape has changed, the social impacts that have led to that change, and BLM's efforts to restore the health of western ecosystems.

Despite the cold and wet weather, neither the visitors' nor the BLMers' enthusiasm was dampened. Mary Ramsey from the North Dakota Field Office had this to say: "The staff meeting prior to the official 'opening bell' on my first day of staffing the exhibit tent did little to prepare me for the huge number of school children that came flooding through the opening. I knew what I was supposed to do and say because of Dick's [Fichtler] excellent coaching – it was the sheer numbers that surprised me. The day just flew by. One minute it was 11 a.m.; the next it was 6 p.m. with the blur of a little over 1,000 people passing by me between those times."

BLM Deputy Director Fran Cherry helped out in the exhibit tent one afternoon and then delivered the keynote address at the signature event banquet that evening. Cherry told the audience, "We can honor best the accomplishments of Lewis and Clark, and the Native Americans who so generously assisted the expedition, by preserving their histories,



Jeff Jarvis ties a bandana for one of the visitors. The fire exhibit is in the background. To the right, Mike Carlson (left) and Dick Fichtler (right) visit before Mike's next performance.

remembering what they accomplished, by working with each other, and respecting the land—and the horizons—they collectively opened to our nation.”

This ninth signature event was named the Circle of Cultures and highlighted the cordial welcome that Lewis and Clark received from the earthlodge peoples of the Upper Missouri. A "Time of Renewal and Exchange," it renewed the bonds of friendship and cooperation forged during the winter of 1804-05 between the United States and the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara nations. Several other agencies and tribes also had displays at the event, and the days were filled with living history re-enactments and talks by Lewis and Clark scholars. Total visitation to the event was around 50,000.

If you missed the Bismarck event, BLM's exhibit will be featured at five of the remaining six national signature events. The next one will be in Fort Benton and Great Falls, Montana, in June and July of 2005. Pompeys Pillar National Monument and New Town, North Dakota, will be the sites of events in



Howard Lemm entertains a group of students waiting to enter the exhibit tent (note all the bandanas).



Cindy Eide asks students about the wildlife found along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

2006, the year the expedition made its return journey to St. Louis. Fichtler is also hoping to bring the exhibit to other communities in Montana and North Dakota over the next two years—towns along the Lewis and Clark Trail but that aren't the site of signature events. For more information on signature events, visit www.lewisandclark200.org.

Oh, the most important day according to Mike Crosby? It was the day Sacagawea was re-united with her brother, Shoshone chief Cameahwait. Lewis was negotiating with the Shoshones for horses so the Corps of Discovery could continue its journey over the mountains to the rivers of Idaho and then to the Columbia and Pacific. Knowing that his sister accompanied the expedition helped convince Cameahwait to cooperate.

National Public Lands Day 2004

Every year on National Public Lands Day, thousands of volunteers offer their time and skills to make improvements on public lands. The Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted seven sites this year. Following is a summary of their accomplishments.



KIPP RECREATION AREA – LEWISTOWN FO

LEFT: Kipp volunteers included an exchange student from Japan who willingly assisted in trimming dead branches. *Photo by Sandra Padilla*

RIGHT: Volunteers from the BLM, Army Corps of Engineers, Walleyes Unlimited, and private citizens installed five concrete benches at Kipp. *Photo by Sandra Padilla*



continued on next page



CLUTE'S CABIN – DILLON FIELD OFFICE

This dedicated group stabilized Clute's Cabin north of Ennis near the Madison River. Besides the Youth Challenge members in green shirts, BLMers included seasonal Jason Jesson (far left), Lee Walsh and Jim Karamanos (far right). *Photo by Mark Sant*

Youth Challenge members and BLMers hand-peeled the logs used to stabilize Clute's Cabin. According to archaeologist Mark Sant, the cabin dates from the late 1860s to 1890 time period based on the square, hand-forged nails used in the structure. It was probably first used as living quarters, then later used by an adjacent hunting and fishing lodge as a chicken coop. Rumor has it that "Club Foot George" of Virginia City fame spent the night in the cabin. *Photo by Mark Sant*



MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE

The Miles City Field Office held its National Public Lands Day at the Glendive Short Pine Off-Highway Vehicle area in May. About 20 volunteers helped dig post holes, erect informational kiosks, collect litter, and install erosion controls. *Photo by Mark E. Jacobsen*



WOOD BOTTOM – LEWISTOWN FIELD OFFICE

The crew after removing a barbed wire fence at Wood Bottom. *Photo by Wade Brown*



FORT MEADE RECREATION AREA — SOUTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE

LEFT: Girl Scouts from Sundance, Wyo., build walking steps on the trail by Alkali Creek. *Photo by Chuck Henris*

RIGHT: Volunteers constructing the outside terrace wall to bring the trail tread to level. *Photo by Chuck Henris*





SCHNELL RECREATION AREA — NORTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE

TOP LEFT: Dickinson State University students helped spread one of the 12-ton piles of topsoil over erosion areas at the Schnell Recreation Area. *Photo by Connie Kolling*

TOP RIGHT: Cousins help each other spread mulch around some young saplings in a woody draw at Schnell Recreation Area. *Photo by Connie Kolling*



BOTTOM RIGHT: North Dakota Field Manager Doug Burger gives a welcoming speech to volunteers on Saturday, September 11, at Schnell Recreation Area. *Photo by Mary Ramsey*

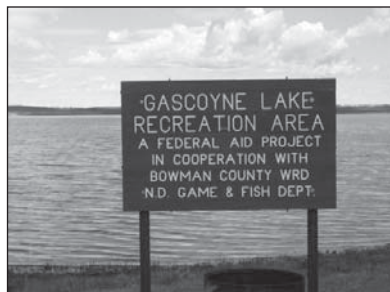


SHEPHERD AH NEI HORSE USE AREA – BILLINGS FIELD OFFICE

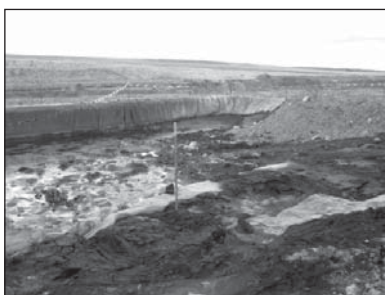
Members of the Greater Yellowstone Back Country Horsemen construct a new jack-leg fence at the Shepherd Ah Nei horse use area. In just three work days this summer, the group dismantled an old fence and built a new one, constructed two picnic tables, and cleaned up the debris, among other things. They wrapped up the project on National Public Lands Day, but plan to help with further improvements at the site. *Photo by Nancy Bjelland*

Dakotas RAC Goes on Tour

Stories and Photos by Mary Ramsey, North Dakota Field Office



In May 2004 the Dakotas Resource Advisory Council toured a proposed site for the Gascoyne Mine. Montana-Dakotas Utilities Co. and Westmoreland Power, Inc. propose to construct and operate an electrical generation station, known as the Gascoyne Generating Station. An adjacent surface lignite mine, known as the Gascoyne Mine in southwest North Dakota near the community of Gascoyne, is also proposed.



The Oilfield Reclamation portion of the tour showed the good, the bad and the ugly. RAC members learned about the reclamation of well pads and workover rigs from BLM employee Tim Zachmeier.



An unrelated but interesting stop on the tour was a triceratops dig site, where RAC member Dr. John Hoganson discussed general rules and regulations for paleontological resource protection and provided some on-the-ground insights. "For more than a century," Hoganson said, "collectors have come to North Dakota to hunt for fossils and numerous important specimens have been removed from the state."

Attention BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association meets on the first Tuesday of odd-numbered months at the Old Country Buffet in Billings. If you would like to receive email or postcard notifications of these meetings, please call Shirley Heffner at 259-1202, Cynthia Embretson at 252-1367, or send your address to Cynthia at ceatsage@wtp.net.

The Public Lands Foundation offers new retirees a free one-year membership. Please contact Bill Noble, PLF Montana Representative, at 406-656-0267 to join.

Please also help us keep our *Quarterly Steward* mailing list current by contacting Ann Boucher of the External Affairs staff at 406-896-5011 or aboucher@mt.blm.gov with address changes.

Retired from MT/Dakotas BLM since June 15, 2004:

Jan Jessen – 33 years
Contract Specialist, Montana State Office

Hank McNeel – 30 years
Natural Resource Specialist, Montana State Office

Richard Hopkins – 36 years
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Montana State Office

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